

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE CALLED CATSPA W

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erful enough to oust from office at will.

HAMPERS ENFORCEMENT.

The league directs the work of prohibition enforcement in its minutest details in every city in the United States. It dictates what shall be done, it dictates how it shall be done.

No prohibition administrator, no matter how expert at law enforcement he may have been, ever has been permitted by the league to do his own job in his own way. Here, perhaps, is the primary reason why the actual work of law enforcement with relation to prohibition as failed so miserably.

The league is reactionary. It is fanatical and bigoted, stiff-necked, hide-bound, and stubborn. Above all, it is ignorant. It does not know how to enforce the prohibition law. Its policies today, to all practical purposes and intent, are the same as they were ten years ago.

The average prohibition enforcement officer, from the commissioner at Washington down to the agent "under cover," has learned that, if he wants to keep his job, the important thing is not that the law be enforced, but that the league be satisfied that its instructions are being carried out.

All initiative has been destroyed.

The result of all this has been that the prohibition law has been enforced just enough to satisfy the league, and no more.

Unfortunately, the things that satisfy the league are not the things that make for prohibition enforcement or law observance. This has been proven time and again. In innumerable cases the league's instructions have been followed to the letter but no recognizable improvement in conditions ever has resulted.

PROBLEM GROWS.

The problem of law enforcement has grown steadily with every year that the prohibition law has been in effect. The league, in its fanatical zeal to do everything, has succeeded in doing nothing.

More recently, indeed, the league's peculiarities in these respects have been employed by the bootleggers in their own interests. The bootleggers have found the league a curiously useful catspaw.

Thus it only is necessary to set the whole machinery of the league in motion at full blast to call the attention of the league to this—that of the other speakeasy that happens to be operating. Immediately there is a grand rush and hurrah. The local officials of the league descend in force upon the Administrator's office with demands for action. And woe betide the Administrator who makes the mistake of refusing the demand!

BOOTLEGGER TO LEAGUE.

Now the bootlegger knows this. He knows, too, that with the limited number of agents at his disposal, the prohibition administrator is able to "cover" only about ten cases a day, no matter how many complaints are received.

So the bootlegger proceeds to file complaints himself—through the league. And preferably against business rivals whom he would be



Maj. F. D. Silloway.

glad to see raided and run out of business anyway. At any rate, apparently a reputable citizen, he goes to the league with his complaints. The league turns on the prohibition administrator with its demand for action.

And the prohibition administrator's tiny force is kept busy investigating these complaints while the really big offender, the bootlegger who filed them to begin with, goes merrily about his business, secure in the knowledge that the local dry force is being kept far too busy satisfying the league's demands to interfere with him!

This is a common occurrence in all prohibition enforcement districts.

The point of the whole situation is this: The league has ceased to be (if it ever was) of any value as a law enforcement agency.

It does not know how to enforce the law. It will not permit those who do know how to enforce the law to do it as it should be done.

It has alienated public opinion. It has made enemies for prohibition—not friends. And, as ignorance always will, lacking the intelligence necessary to a peaceful settlement of a dispute, it has resorted to force. It has set up an invisible government at Washington. It has terrorized Congress and State Legislatures. It has subjected honest citizens to indignities and it has deprived them of their fundamental rights.

And with all of it, it has not gotten results.

It has not gotten prohibition enforcement.

Liquor is as plentiful today as ever. Its quality is better than ever before. Its price is as cheap or cheaper than ever. There is more drinking going on than ever. And we are as far or farther away from law enforcement as ever.

It simply hasn't worked.